

U.S. Military Academy - Confectionery
(Boodler's)

HABS No. NY-5708-19

Northeast of the intersection of Howard and Ruger
Roads; across Howard Road from the Ordnance Compound
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY - CONFECTIONERY
(BOODLER'S)

LOCATION: Northeast of the intersection of Howard and Ruger Roads;
across Howard Road from the Ordnance Compound; U.S. Military
Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USCS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.586980.4582960.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Community Center.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Confectionery is representative of a rather modest 1870s
Academy service building which has all but disappeared from
West Point today. This is one of the few surviving nineteenth
century buildings in the Post Services area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1878 (Board of Visitor's Report, 1887 and Williams,
Facilities Report 1889).
2. Architect: Unknown. Probably U.S.M.A. Quartermaster's Office.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department
of the Army.
4. Builders: Unknown. Probably U.S.M.A. Quartermaster's Office.
5. Original plans and construction: The Board of Visitor's Report
from 1887 (U.S.M.A. Archives) reported the following: "Vouchers
on file in this office show that the brick building now occupied
by Mr. Denton as a confectionery was built in the year 1878 as a
market, at a cost to the Military Academy post fund of \$2,368.59.
This building rents for \$150 per year, and the amount is credited
to the Military Academy post fund."

"Mr. John Denton occupies the old stone building which stands north
of the confectionary as a stable." In 1894 the Board of Visitor's
Report listed the rent of the "confectionery store (retiring house)"
as \$350.00.

6. Alterations and additions: The first major alteration to the building came in 1889 when a second floor was added in its conversion to a Retiring House (Williams). This created two parlors (18'-16" x 11' x 10'), a waiting room (18'-6" x 22' x 10'), and two toilet rooms (13'-8" x 8'-6" x 10') on the second floor. The first floor remained a store (44' x 28' x 11'). By ca. 1900 the building was being used as a Cadet Restaurant, presumably with alterations. A photograph in the U.S.M.A. Archives (Grashof Pl 147-6) shows the building after this alteration with a double front door, a porch on the west elevation, a one-story addition on the east elevation and metal cresting on the roof. The next major alteration came in 1936 when the restaurant was converted to two officers' quarters, one upstairs and one downstairs, with approximately 950 square feet each. The most recent alteration was the conversion from quarters to a community center (date unknown). The last two alterations were the most severe.

Alterations in 1936 are documented on drawings from the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, numbers 2460, 2461, 2462 and 2463. These alterations include: South elevation: new door; new windows with concrete sills flanking the door (creating 2 new bays). North elevation: new stairs and porch; a new triple frame window; two doors converted to windows; a new window to the south of the doorway; a new porch on concrete footings; and new second floor windows which were shorter than the originals and bricked-up under the sills. West elevation: a window made into a door; a new window opening; and a new stairs and porch. Interior alterations at this time include all new yellow pine flooring; the removal of a stair-case to the left of the entrance and a new one to the right; the creation of kitchens, bathrooms, fireplaces and new walls for bedrooms, dining rooms, halls, living rooms and new doors and window sash.

Undated alterations include: door sidelights filled with wood on the facade; replacement double-hung sash with aluminum storm windows; metal stairs and a concrete stair pad on the west; the removal of the north porch; cement window sills which have replaced original sandstone sills in places; and a brick-up doorway on the north.

- B. Historical Context: For the historical and architectural context of this building within the overall development of West Point see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure exhibits an almost vernacular quality of an 1880s commercial Italiante style. Its brick label molds and decorative brick cornice enliven an otherwise ascetic exterior.

2. Condition of fabric: The condition of the exterior fabric is fair. The painted brick walls show evidence of spalling and cracks. The brick cornice is badly cracked in many places. Brick patches can be seen on the east elevation and granite patches can be seen on the above grade foundation walls of the north elevation.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is approximately 47' x 30'. An 18' wide central pavilion projects 4' on the 7 bay facade. Because of its placement on the north slope of the Plain, the two story building appears taller on the north due to the exposed cellar wall.
2. Foundations: Foundation walls are rock-faced granite laid in a random range ashlar pattern. The exterior walls are exposed on the north elevation and partially on the east and west.
3. Walls: The walls are brick, painted white. The north and west elevations are entirely seven-course American Bond while the east and north elevations switch from five to seven-course American Bond from the first to the second story. There is no wall ornamentation except for brick label molds on the south and west elevations and a corbelled brick cornice on the north, east and west sides.
4. Structural system, framing: The building is constructed of load-bearing brick walls approximately 12" thick; wood joist floors; and presumably, a wooden common rafter roof. The cellar is a brick-lined and brick-vaulted space with steel plates and posts for support. Drawings from 1936 indicate that the joists are approximately 14" high.
5. Stairs: A narrow metal stairs with a small top landing is attached to the west wall and provides exterior access to the second floor.
6. Chimneys: A rectangular chimney with a corbelled cap is situated on the east and west sides of the roof.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is one principal doorway on the facade, a first and second story doorway on the west and three cellar doorways on the north.

The principal doorway is shown in historic photographs to be a double door. This was altered into a single door with framed-in sides and a shortened transom. This door, like the two on the west, is half-glazed with four lights and dates after the 1936 period of alterations. Over the doorway openings are segmental brick jack arches which project from the wall slightly and extend down on the ends to form a label mold.

On the west the first floor doorway was created from a window in 1936 and has a higher transom than the second story doorway above.

The three cellar doors and doorways are all different. The two western-most doors are panelled while the one on the east is batten. They have red sandstone lintels and brick jambs in a long-and-short pattern. The middle door's transom is now filled with wood.

- b. Windows: All windows are 1-over-1 double-hung wooden sash with exterior aluminum storm windows. With the exception of the two windows flanking the front floor and the north cellar window, all window openings have segmental brick jack arches; those arches on the north, west and east are also formed into label molds. Sills are granite or concrete. All openings dating to 1936 have brick arch/label molds which match those on the original openings.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is a low-pitch hip hidden behind the parapet walls. Covering unknown.
- b. Cornice, parapet: The corbelled brick cornice is the most decorative feature of the exterior; it forms a parapet on the south, east and west sides of the building. A hung-gutter and conductor is found only on the north side.

C. Description of Interior: The interior of the Confectionery has been completely altered through the many different uses to which the building has been put and retains no visible original fabric.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The Confectionery is situated on the north edge of the Plain and faces south. Because of this sloping site, the north elevation's stone foundation walls are exposed and there is direct access into the cellar.

The site is fairly confined, with an officer's quarters to the southwest, the Ordnance Compound (HABS No. NY-5708-9-14) to the southeast, Eisenhower Hall to the west and U.S.M.A. #639 to the east. An older stone retaining wall is attached to the east and west elevations near the north elevation. Attached to this west stone wall and separated from the building by a cement sidewalk is a more recent brick wall that forms part of a staircase to a lower level down near Pitcher Road.

- 2. Historic site: Williams' Facilities Report mentions that a one-story stone stables for "public carrier" (155' x 23') with a one-story

frame shed (13'-8" x 31') was located to the rear of the Confectionery. He goes on to say that "adjoining the confectionery store is the office of the stable, a frame building containing one room, 13 ft. 2 in. x 12 ft., heated by stove." This office is probably the building seen attached to the east wall of the Confectionery in an historic photograph (Grashof Pl. 147-6).

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: Drawings entitled "conversion of the Old Cadet Restaurant to Officers Quart's" (Numbers 2460 - 2463) dated from 1936 and were prepared under the direction of Lt. Col. Robert M. Littlejohn, O.M.C. Quartermaster. These are located in the Directorate of Engineering Office, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early views: Historic photographs include one from the Stockton collection (#247A) from about ca. 1900; and one from c. 1880 (Grashof Pl 147-a); and one from post 1889 (Grashof Pl 147-b). All of these are located in the U.S. Military Academy Archives. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

Williams, Captain Charles W., "Post Facilities Report," 1889, U.S. Military Academy Archives.
 - 2. Secondary and published sources:

Annual Reports, Board of Visitor's Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

Grashof, Bethanie C., "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S., "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," HABS No. NY-5708.
- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: National Archives, Washington, D.C.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy,

explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.